(d) The wheat stocks in the Central Pool as on 1.2.2006 was 48.74 lakh MTs.

(e) The estimated domestic consumption of wheat during 2006-07 from the Central Pool is likely to be 175 lakh MTs.

Protest by Saints for Pollution in Ganga

†616. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the protest registered by saints regarding polluted Ganga water in Allahabad;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Ganga water in Allahabad and its adjacent areas is getting polluted;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether Government have taken immediate steps to save Ganga water from pollution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The protest of the saints vovered by media has come to the notice of the Government. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) are carrying out special water quality monitoring of river Ganga at Allahabad during Magh Mela period (January 14 - February 26, 2006). The data revealed Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) during Magh Mela period as 5 milligram per litre as against 3.1 milligram per litre observed as lean season average during regular monitoring in 2005. The applicable BOD standard is 3.0 milligram per litre. The colour was observed in river Ganga downstream of the confluence of tributaries namely, Ramganga and Kali, which persisted slightly up to Allahabad. During the Magh Mela period nearly 1.8 crore people have taken bath at the Sangam at Allahabad till date.

(d) and (e) The Government is implementing Ganga Action Plan for abatement of pollution in the river through various schemes namely,

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

interception, diversion and treatment of domestic sewage. Beside these, the plan includes setting up of Low Cost toilets, Crematoria and River Front Facilities. Under the Phase-I of this plan, a capacity for treating 60 mld of sewage has been created in Allahabad. Under GAP Phase-II, 6 schemes amounting to Rs. 31.55 crores have been sanctioned for creating a capacity of treating 29 mld of sewage. The U.P. Pollution Control Board has issued directions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to 29 industries to immediately stop discharge of coloured effluent into river Ganga. In addition, 15 tannery units in Jajmau, Kanpur and one paper mill in Ghaziabad, have been closed down. Directions have also been issued for proper operation of Common Effluent Treatment Plant and Sewage Treatment Plant at Jajmau, Kanpur.

Illegal mining in Aravali mountain range

†617. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that environment of Delhi and Haryana is severely affected due to illegal mining of Aravali mountain range;

(b) whether Government have received any report from environmentalists in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to stop such illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) No, Sir. As per Government of Haryana, there is no illegal mining taking place in Aravali mountain range of Haryana. The Government of NCT of Delhi have also reported that no mining is being permitted in the Ridge area which are extension of Aravali mountain range in Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Strict vigil is being maintained by both the State Governments to ensure that no illegal mining takes place in their respective areas. Joint

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.